

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to
Figures 1 and 5.

Figures 1 and 5 have been amended to replace "et" with
--,--.

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action objected to the drawings because the reference "8 et 9" in Figs. 1 and 5 does not conform to idiomatic English and United States patent practice. Accordingly, Figures 1 and 5 have been amended to replace "et" with --,--.

The Official Action also objected to the drawings concerning the recitations of "one third light source" in claim 17 and "four light sources" in claim 20. No amendment is necessary as to these features as they are illustrated in Figure 6.

Reference is made to Figure 6 in specification page 5, lines 9-15. The specification indicates that each LED type light source is illustrated by an arrow, with associated numeral 15 or 16.

Figure 6 shows a first row of arrows 15 constituting a first light source (first row of LEDs) arranged along the left hand side of the light guide plate 1. Similarly, a second row of arrows 15 symbolizes the second light source (second row of LEDs) arranged along the right hand side of the light guide plate 1. Two horizontal rows of arrows 16 symbolize a third light source (third row of LEDs) arranged along the bottom side of the plate

1. A further row of arrows 16 symbolize a fourth light source (fourth row of LEDs) arranged along the topside of the plate 1.

The Official Action made various claim objections. Responsively, amendments have been made to the claims to remedy the stated basis of objection. New claims 34-35 correspond to subject matter removed from claim 23 responsive to the indefiniteness rejection.

The claims have also been amended as to form, certain claims being canceled.

Claims 17 and 24 have been amended to further specify that:

i) each diffusing pattern comprises a groove and two lateral strips of projections and depressions;

ii) the diffusing patterns/the grooves are spaced apart at varying distances.

Claim 17 further recites that

iii) each diffusing pattern has irregularities in surface area and depth. Claim 24 further recites that

iv) each groove has irregularities in depth and an irregular transverse profile.

Support for these features i) to iv) is as follows:

i) page 2 - lines 4-11, claim 18;

ii) page 2 - line 33 - page 3-line 4, claim 25;

iii) page 4 - lines 11-15, claim 32; and

iv) page 2 - lines 4-7, page 4 - lines 11-15, claim 32.

The amended claims are believed to patentably recite the present invention in that the prior art fails to teach or suggest irregular diffusing patterns having the features i) + ii) + iii) above (with respect to amended claim 17), or features having i) + ii) + iv), above (with respect to amended claim 24).

Claims 17 and 21 were rejected as anticipated by AKAHANE et al. 5,667,289. Claim 24 was also rejected by AKAHANE et al.

Claims 18-20 were rejected as obvious over EGAWA et al. 6,631,998 in view of AKAHANE et al., as applied to claim 17, and TERAGAKI et al. 6,123,431).

Claim 22 was rejected as obvious over AKAHANE et al. in further view of KUWABARA.

Claim 23 was rejected as obvious over AKAHANE et al.

Claims 25-26, 28, and 31 were rejected as obvious over EGAWA et al. in view of AKAHANE et al., and TERAGAKI et al.

Claim 27 was rejected as obvious over EGAWA et al. in view of AKAHANE et al. and GOTO et al. 5,999,685.

Claims 29-30 were rejected as obvious over EGAWA et al., AKAHANE et al., and TERAGAKI et al.

Claim 32 was rejected as obvious over TERAGAKI et al.

As stated above, these references, taken individually or in any reasonable combination thereof, do not teach or suggest the features of the invention as now recited in the amended claims.

Page 11 of the Official Action, at line 7 within paragraph 28, indicates that EGAWA has a first face with a plurality of first irregular elongated diffusing patterns. This is not correct. Further, neither AKAHANE et al. nor TERAGAKI et al./GOTO disclose irregularly shaped patterns, grooves, or projections as recited in amended claims 17 and 24. In AKAHANE et al., irregularities of plate 7/8 are not described, nor are such irregularities described in GOTO. "Irregularities" 71, 81, 83 of TERAGAKI are prisms, pyramid arrays, and grooves with a "regular" shape in cross section. These are not irregularities.

Page 6 of the Official Action, in paragraph 17, indicates that AKAHANE et al. discloses irregular first diffusing patterns crisscrossing second diffusing patterns. This is incorrect. The crisscrossing patterns shown in Figure 9 of AKAHANE are rows of "...diffusion elements 5B having a pixel, dot or point configuration." (col. 9, lines 17-18). This diffusion system is applied to a surface of plate 1 (column 5, lines 13-35), where irregularities are provided on plate/film 7 (col. 5, lines 36-47).

Accordingly, the prior art is not seen as teaching or suggesting the features of the invention as now recited.

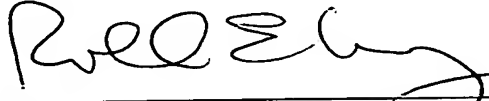
Reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/mjr

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- Two replacement sheets for Figures 1 and 5 of the drawings